



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT

KATJANA BALLANTYNE
MAYOR

DOUGLAS KRESS
ACTING AGENT FOR BOH

MINUTES
BOARD OF HEALTH
January 20, 2022

Open Conference / Virtual Meeting

Present:

Douglas Kress, Acting Agent / BOH
Brian Green, MD (Chair)
Robert Ciccio, Board Member
Paula Machado, Board Member

Roll Call: Brian Green Paula Machado and Robert Ciccio were all present.

Vaccine Mandate Proposed Order – An updated version of the vaccine mandate was presented to the board members for review and to vote to adopt. It also can be found online at www.somervillema.gov. The new effective date was changed to January 31, 2022. According to data 91.5% of Somerville residents have received one vaccination and 80.2 % are fully vaccinated (2 vaccines) 97.3% of Somerville residents over the age of 12 has received one vaccine and 85.4% are fully vaccinated. As of January 13, 2022, the positive test rate for Somerville residents has reached 15.25% up from 0.11% reported back on June 24, 2021. A digital or photo copy of a vaccine card will be accepted. The exemptions for entertainers and their associates do not have to provide proof was strike out of the proposed mandate order.

Ms. Spencer, the Chief of Staff to Mayor Ballantyne spoke briefly and said that the Mayor is committed to this order and her administration will work diligently to help the businesses in providing signs, trainings, and workshops, prioritize education financial support and all this will be provided in multiple languages. The immigrant population, the administration has been working with them to help navigate the covid19 pandemic

Board Deliberations: Mr. Ciccio asked "is it reasonable that the city will do the outreach if order is approved and is it a priority for the Mayors' administration. Ms. Machado does not agree with this mandate and says more education and outreach is what is needed to get more residents to get vaccinated and feel safe and secure about doing it. Dr. Green said that vaccines are really helpful in preventing deaths, masking and testing is the way to go. This policy is really good idea with the delta variant but not the omicron variant. The policy as of now will not decrease the spread. More education will be more beneficial than a vaccine mandate.

Dr. Green made a motion to take a roll call vote to adopt the vaccine mandate as written with the modifications. It was seconded by Mr. Ciccio.

Paula Machado present vote – No
Robert Ciccio present vote – Yes
Dr. Brian Green present vote – No

The vote was one (1) yes and two (2) no's. The motion to adopt the City of Somerville vaccine mandate fails. It was not adopted.

Next meeting

February 17, 2022

Dr. Green made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:26pm. It was seconded by Ms. Machado. A roll call vote was taken. All in Favor.

List of Documents:

Notice/Agenda, Vaccine Mandate Order, Minutes

Respectfully Submitted,
Kathy Henkle-Teixeira
Board of Health Secretary
February 14, 2022